

Higham and Rushden U3A

Minutes of the AGM held on 18 October 2019 at the Pemberton Centre, Rushden

1. Welcome

The chair Angela Mason welcomed the members present to the meeting and reminded members this was our last meeting at the Pemberton, and all are welcome to our new home the Wesleyan Church, Rushden on 21 November 2019 at 1.45pm. Thanks to all the Committee for their hard work over a difficult year.

2. Apologies

Alan Devenish, Linda and Chris Walker.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 18th of October 2018 had been distributed and posted on the website.

The members present were asked if they were a true record before being signed by the Chair.

Proposed Phil Grace

Seconded Jean Mole

Vote to accept the Minutes as a true record:

Carried unanimously

4. Matters Arising

No Matters Arising.

5. Chairman's Report Attached Appendix A

6. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the accounts Appendix B

Jean Mole talked through the ACCOUNTS as per the attached document and explained that we were in a financially sound position with a healthy balance in the account. The membership fee will remain the same. The Accounts were formally presented to the members.

Proposed Linda Grace

Seconded Steve Evans

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Treasurer, Jean Mole, recommended that Mr Kevin Bird be appointed for the coming year.

Proposed: Gloria Wright

Seconded Colin Mason

8. Executive Officers

These will be approved and elected at the first committee meeting after the AGM by the other committee members.

9. Election of the Committee.

Steve Evans
Mike Wood
Jenny Carr
Angela Mason
Denise Evans
Alan Devenish
Jim Morrison
Maggie Morrison
Tony Monk
Gerald Boxall
Rosemary McGee

The Secretary had received all nomination papers - -correctly proposed and seconded by other U3A members.

11. Any Other Matters

The Chair Angela thanked the Raffle Ladies as there will be no raffle at our new home for religious reasons.
She then distributed thank you gifts to Jean Mole, Peter Wright, Jessica Walker and Pat Bird.

The next AGM will be held on Thursday 22 October 2020

The meeting closed at 2.30

Appendix A

Chairman's Report 2019

Dear Members.

It has been a very tough unsettled year. I truly expected that this year would see us happily ensconced in our new home at the Railway Sheds for the foreseeable future. This was not to be but, never say never!

We move to a venue which ticks some but not all our requirements. This venue does give us the room we need in order to expand and serve our membership. I am acutely aware that some of you may be thinking of leaving, I do hope you will stay and give the new venue a chance.

We now move on to our forthcoming AGM. Last AGM personally left me feeling like a rabbit caught in headlights. The job of Chairman is one not to be taken lightly and I wanted to be able to give the job 100%.

It has been an experience that I have enjoyed but at times found very challenging and definitely frustrating.

No one trains you for this role, but time served on the Committee taught me many things. I have certainly learned you can't please everyone and have had to grow a thicker skin with some very caustic remarks received from members.

I made it my job to inform and not dictate giving the committee their head. We have at times profusely disagreed, but dialogue has always resolved each matter.

It has been a privilege to work with our committee and I thank them on your behalf for the giving of their time and energy to serve this U3A.

Our 10th Anniversary saw us celebrating with almost 300 of you attending. It was gratifying to have some of you help the committee organise and manage the day. We look forward to the next 10 years.

We especially thank those committee members leaving. Farewell to Jean Mole, Pat Bird, Jessica Walker and Peter Wright.

We have been modernising this year and have invested in an excellent projector which produces quality pictures. We have also invested in a new "Lifetime Card" system. The cards you keep as long as you are a member. There is a chip inside which tells us who you are and when you are due for renewal. You will continue to receive your renewal in the usual way. You must bring your card with you to every monthly meeting where it will be swiped in order to record your presence. This is intended to speed up the process of signing in whilst keeping track of your membership status etc.

The committee continue to move ahead this year. I want to be able to hold short courses and would welcome your suggestions. These short courses will be held for no more than a few weeks. The aim is to share an interest and experience in a given subject where a group can learn from one another. Some examples are World Wars 1&2, Transportation, poetry. If you have an interest in a subject, you would love to share please get in touch.

Kind Regards

Angela Mason.
Chairman.

U3A TREASURER'S REPORT 2019

There are copies of the Profit & Loss account attached should you wish to see them. As your Treasurer, I am very pleased to let you know that our bank balance is looking extremely healthy.

That being said, at the end of August last year, our main account was standing at **£12,861**, whilst at the end of August this year it was **£10,943** ~ a loss over the whole year of **£1,918**.

However, this is not a disaster and was mainly due to a couple of “one off” items ~ namely the 10th Anniversary Tea Party and the Electronic Card Reader System, which together totalled over **£1,900**.

I don't want to bore you too much with figures, but just want to highlight a couple of other areas. The main items on expenditure were **Capitation Fees** ~ which we have to pay to the main U3A body. Followed by the cost of **Hall hire** @ £1,598. Incidentally this figure is likely to be unchanged after our move to the Wesleyan Church in Rushden. The cost of **Office Equipment** was **£1,575**, and was for computers and printers, whilst fees to **Speakers** over the year totalled nearly **£1,500**. Most other expenditure was on a par with previous years, with small variations. In total our expenditure over the year was **£12,683**

Although we do anticipate a rise in the cost of speakers over the coming year, your Committee is happy to keep your annual subscriptions to **£15**, which is amazing value to belong to this brilliant U3A.

I have been privileged to be your Treasurer for the past six years and have thoroughly enjoyed being on the committee, but now I am delighted to be able to step down and hand over the control of the finances to Mike Wood, who has been a great help finalising these accounts for me.

Thank you

Jean Mole

Higham & Rushden USA
Income & Expenditure Account ~ For Year Ending 31st August 2019

INCOME	2018/19		2017/18		EXPENDITURE	Current		Last Year	
	£		£			£		£	
Membership Fees <i>(inc visitor fees)</i>	£10,245.00	£9,833.41			Capitation Fees	£2,187.50	£2,201.50		
Raffle <i>(net)</i>	£520.83	£550.95			Hall Hire ~ Pemberton Hall & The Sheds	£1,598.00	£1,295.00		
Sale of Keyboard, Books etc	£0.00	£18.00			Office Equipment	£1,575.00	£46.06		
INCOME FOR CURRENT YEAR TO 31.08.19	£10,765.83	£10,402.36			Speakers for Monthly Meetings	£1,497.00	£933.20		
					Tea Party 2019	£978.71	£13.00		
					Electronic Card Reader System	£965.69	£0.00		
INCOME for Year to 31st August	£10,765.83	£10,402.36			I.T.	£754.98	£82.00		
EXPENDITURE for Year to 31st August	£12,683.84	£7,601.33			Beacon Licence Fee & Beacon Training	£633.00	£22.80		
PROFIT/LOSS FOR CURRENT YEAR	£-1,918.01	£2,801.03			Printing - Newsletters	£490.63	£487.30		
					Stationery	£366.93	£122.21		
					Postage	£351.12	£447.28		
					Beacon Subscription (annual)	£309.00	£60.00		
Balance in Bank @ 31st August 2019	£10,943.43	£12,861.44			Refreshments	£278.03	£246.61		
Loss 2018/19 ** (As per Audited A/cs)	£-1,918.01	£2,801.03			Third Age Trust ~ Direct Mail	£265.40	£157.60		
					Vouchers & Cards	£244.67	£106.72		
Social Account (Balance in Bank)	£4,082.43	£4,400.23			Conference & Network Meetings inc Travel	£108.40	£272.49		
					Printing - General	£85.54	£332.87		
Petty Cash (Cash in Hand)	£15.85	£15.85			Copyright Licence Fee	£0.00	£120.00		
					Sundries	£26.74	£144.42		
					Computer & Software <i>(lottery grant)</i>	£0.00	£510.27		
					Adjustment to B/Forward figure	-32.50	£0.00		
					EXPENDITURE CURRENT YEAR TO 31.8.19	£12,683.84	£7,601.33		

Statement of Accounts prepared by Mrs Jean Mole 

I certify that from the evidence provided, the above accounts are a true reflection of the financial affairs of the Association

 Kevin Bird ~ Auditor